

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for sharing contact information, comprising:
2 storing a user's contact information in a database accessible over a network;
3 receiving identification from a user of a person to authorize for access the user's
4 contact information;
5 enabling the person to access the user's contact information; and
6 transmitting the user's contact information to a computing device of the
7 authorized person from the database via the network in response to a request for this
8 information.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing the user's contact
2 information comprises storing the user's contact information on a network server
3 accessible through the network that is used as a central repository of contacts information.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the network comprises the Internet.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving identification
2 comprises receiving one of the person's email address.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of enabling the person to access
2 the user's contact information comprises adding the person's identity to an approved list
3 associated with the user's contact information.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving an
2 indication from the user as to what pieces of contact information to make accessible to
3 the authorized person.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of revoking a person's
2 access to the user's contact information in response to the user's request to revoke the
3 access.

1 8. A method for sharing contact information, comprising:
2 receiving a user's identification that conveys the user's authorization to access
3 contact information;
4 receiving a request to view contact information;
5 retrieving the requested contact information from a remote database via a
6 network; and
7 presenting the contact information to the user.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of receiving a request to view
2 contact information comprises receiving a request from a remote computing device via
3 the network.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of retrieving the requested
2 contact information comprises retrieving the contact information from a network server
3 accessible through the network that is used as a central repository of contacts information.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the network is the Internet.

1 12. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of storing the retrieved
2 contact information in a local database.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of displaying the contact
2 information comprises displaying the contact information to the user with a computing
3 device.

1 14. A method for sharing contact information, comprising:
2 storing a user's contact information in a web server accessible via the Internet;
3 receiving from the user an identification of one or more persons that the user
4 authorizes to access the user's contact information;
5 receiving identification of what pieces of contact information to share with each
6 authorized person;
7 receiving a request from a person to view the user's contact information;
8 verifying authorization of the person to view the user's contact information and
9 the level of access for which the person is approved; and
10 transmitting appropriate contact information to the person.

1 15. A system for sharing contact information, comprising:
2 means for storing a user's contact information in a location accessible over a
3 network;
4 means for receiving an identification of one or more persons that a user authorizes
5 to access the user's contact information;
6 means for enabling the persons to access to the user's contact information; and
7 means for transmitting the user's contact information to a computing devices of
8 the authorized persons from the database in response to requests for this information.

1 16. The system of claim 15, further comprising the means for receiving an
2 indication from the user as to what pieces of contact information to make accessible to
3 the persons.

1 17. The system of claim 15, further comprising means for revoking a person's
2 access to the user's contact information.

1 18. A system for sharing contact information, comprising:
2 means for verifying a user's authorization to access contact information;
3 means for receiving a request to view contact information;
4 means for retrieving the requested contact information from a remote database
5 accessible via a network; and
6 means for presenting the contact information to the user.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request
2 comprises a link to the contact information on the network.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the means for retrieving the requested
2 contact information comprises network interface devices adapted to retrieve the contact
3 information from a web server connected to the Internet.